

ever, avarice prevailed over fear. The people rarely see money, and it is not used as a medium of exchange, but they value it highly for paying the tribute and as ornaments for the women. Barter is the custom, and with regard to "tradesmen," whether in camps or villages, it is usual for each family to pay so much grain annually to the blacksmith, the carpenter, the shoemaker —i.e. the man who makes compressed rag or leather soles for *glievas* and unites the cotton webbing ("upper") to the sole—and the *Tiammam* keeper, in the rare cases where there is one. They were cutting wheat on July 12 there at an altitude of 7000 feet. Where there are only camps the oxen tread it out at once on the hard soil of the fields, but where there is a village the sheaves are brought in on donkeys' backs to a house roof of sun-dried clay, and are there trodden out, the roofs being usually accessible from the slope above.

We descended to a deep ford, crossed the river Ab-i-Baznoi (locally known as Kakulistan, or "the curl," from its singular windings), there about sixty feet wide, with clear rapid water of a sky-blue tint, very strong, and up to the guide's waist, and entered a steep-sided stony valley, where the heat was simply sickening. There the second guide left us, saying he should be killed if he went any farther, but another was willing to succeed him. After a steep ascent we emerged on a broad rolling upland valley, deeply gashed by a stream, with the grand range of the Kala Kuh on the south side, and low bare

hills on the north. It is now populous, the  
valley and  
hillsides are spotted with large camps, and  
the question  
at once arose, " Hostile or Friendly ?"

I was riding as usual with Mirza behind  
me, when a  
man with a gun rushed frantically towards me  
from an  
adjacent camp, waving his gun and shouting,  
" Who are  
you ? Why are you in our country ? You're  
friends of